

NOTES TO TRANSCRIPTIONS

1. Keys to the 'Alice' transcriptions which feature as 'Activities' in *Practical English Phonetics and Phonology* are to be found in separate files numbered **Transcription Passage 1, Transcription Passage 2**, etc. Extra passages for transcriptions have also been provided on this website.
2. We have assumed a relatively careful style of pronunciation at a fairly slow rate of delivery, but with full use of weak and contracted forms. Note that we have normally indicated contracted forms wherever possible, i.e. *there is* as /'ðɛ:z/ rather than the alternative /'ðɛ: rɪz/.
3. Apart from the few exceptions noted below, we have normally shown only one possibility and not a range of variants. However, a great deal of variation is in fact possible, especially in terms of stress and the location of intonation group boundaries.
4. In a few cases, alternative pronunciations have been indicated at the foot of the transcription or, in the case of variation between DRESS and FACE, and schwa and GOAT, the second element of diphthongs has been shown in italics. More detail on individual words can be found in the *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary* (Wells 2008), henceforth *LPD*.
5. Optional sounds have been indicated by means of italics, e.g. *and had just begun to dream* /ən həd 'dʒʌst bə'gʌn tə 'dri:m/. Note that *and* is shown throughout as /ən/.
6. Syllabic [n] is transcribed for /ən/ after fricatives and alveolar plosives, but /ən/ is always an acceptable alternative.
7. Syllabic [l] is transcribed for /əl/ after all consonants except approximants. See Units A2 and A3.
8. Linking *r* (Unit B2) is placed *between* the words concerned, e.g. *and here Alice began* /ən 'hɪə r ælɪs bə'gæn/.

9. In GB, there is frequently the possibility of free variation between /ɪ/ and /ə/ in unstressed syllables. For instance, prefixes such as *pre-*, *be-*, *de-*, *re-* are shown here /ə/ rather than /ɪ/, e.g. *began* /bə'gæn/, but note that the alternative pronunciation with /ɪ/ is perfectly acceptable, /bɪ'gæn/. In many other words there is similar variation in unstressed syllables, e.g. *impossible*. If in doubt, consult the *LPD*.